

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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R 241600 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6970

USMISSION NATO

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T COPENHAGEN 1106

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-81

TAGS: PBOR, IC, UK

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NATO ROLE IN ICELANDIC FISHERIES DISPUTE

REF: USNATO 2527; COPENHAGEN 1105

1. IN VIEW OF ICELAND' S CLEAR UNWILLINGNESS TO RESPOND TO FEBRUARY 1973 DANISH OFFER TO MEDIATE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT DANISH GOVT WILL WISH TO TAKE THE LEAD AGAIN AT THIS TIME BY DESIGNATING DANE AS NATO MEDIATOR. EVEN IF THEY COULD RELUCTANTLY BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT TASK, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER WORKING IN TANDEM WITH SPECIAL US ENVOY BECAUSE THAT WOULD RISK TOO CLOSE IDENTIFICATION OF IDF AND FISHERIES ISSUES. DANES WOULD PROBABLY REASON THAT, IN CONTRAST WITH SITUATION IN CYPRUS WHEN AMBASSADOR VANCE WAS ABLE TO PLAY IMPORTANT SUPPORTING ROLE TO SYG BROSIOS, U. S. FORCES ARE VERY MUCH ON THE GROUND IN ICELAND AND THEIR PRESENCE IS ALREADY SERIOUS BONE OF CONTENTION WITHIN ICELANDIC GOVT AND AMONG POPULATION.

2. WE WOULD DEFER TO EMBASSY REYKJAVIK' S VIEWS ON THIS
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MATTER BUT, FROM OUT RLIMITED VIEWPOINT, IT APPEARS THAT US
INTERESTS
WOULD BEST BE SERVED BY ADOPTING LOW POSTURE IN FISHERIES DISPUTE,
WHILE COUNSELING BOTH SIDES TO BE MORE CONCILIATORY. IT OCCURS
TO US THAT CURRENT STATUS QUO MAY NOT BE UNACCEPTABLE TO EITHER
GOVT
AS THEY CAN BOTH APPEAR TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS TO BE DEFENDING LATT-
ER' S INTERESTS .
DUNNIGAN

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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USUN NEW YORK

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